

*Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board*  
*Meeting Summary*  
*December 12, 2005*

**Members Present:** Alan Bowser, Charlotte Coffield, Korey Hartwich, Robert Hicks, Graciela Jaschek, Jon Lourie, Phillip Olivetti, Marilyn Seitz, Debbie Spielberg, Mitch Warren, Eric Hensal, Loyce Grigsby, Kathryn Stevens, and Mark Woodard

**Members Absent:** Victor Salazar, Jerry Yokoyama, and Jose Vazquez,

**Welcome/Introductions**

Meeting was called to order by Debbie Spielberg, Vice Chair. Members of the Board, Staff, and Guests were introduced.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Motion:** (Olivetti, Seitz) the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board adopted the minutes of the November 2005.

**Community Comments**

Marcie Stickle announced that the Silver Spring Historical Society invites everyone to an informative book signing, discussion, and slide show on December 17 at 1:00 p.m. at the Historic Silver Spring B&O Railroad Station, 8100 Georgia Avenue. This is the very first book written about Silver Spring Central Business District and we will also have delectable treats from the Tian Jin Place Chinese Restaurant at 8411 Georgia Avenue.

Bob Colvin stated that there was a meeting with MTA, Mike Madden and we gave him a list of concerns from ESSCA about the Bi-County Transitway. Also we had a discussion about the Metropolitan Branch Trail and there are five options for it. Our Executive Board wants to go with Option #1 which is to take the trail south, from a new bridge over Georgia Avenue (MD 97) to the area between Selim Road and the railroad to a proposed tunnel under Burlington Avenue (MD 410). Selim Road would be narrowed to provide for the trail, and the intersection of Selim Road and Philadelphia would be realigned. The trail would continue south along the railroad, turning east and then south on Fenton Street (with an at-grade crossing of King Street) to connect with the existing trail and we would appreciate your support.

On Monday, December 19, 7:30 p.m. the East Silver Spring Citizens Association will have their regular meeting at Sligo Recreation Center, 500 Sligo Avenue and Tom Pogue, Department of Public Works and Transportation will be the speaker and we will discuss some of the problems we feel will be forthcoming regarding traffic.

**County Executive Report:**

Paul Folkers reported that:

- Montgomery County Executive Douglas M. Duncan delivered his annual State of the County Address to residents on December 6 at 8 p.m.

- Montgomery County Executive announced the opening of the new interim fire station in Clarksburg-Station 35. The 3,000 square foot facility, is located at 22610 Gateway Drive in the Gateway Venter Business Park and will initially include one fire engine staffed by a full time crew of four persons one of whom will be a paramedic
- George Leventhal is the newly elect Montgomery County Council President and Marilyn Praisner has been elected Council Vice President.
- Montgomery County Executive Douglas M. Duncan today announced that Wheaton has been designated by the State of Maryland as an Arts and Entertainment District, joining Silver Spring and Bethesda as the third district in Montgomery County to receive the distinction.

### **Discussion**

Phil Olivetti stated that the County Executive's Annual State of the County Address did not mention much about Transportation.

Paul Folkers responded that it was mentioned but it may not have been as much of an emphasis on it.

Alan Bowser stated that in the Washington Post there was a statement about using toll lanes to finance transportation of the State and also in the article it stated that toll lanes would be used for the inter-county connector. Has that decision already been made and does the administration have a position on toll lanes versus HOV lanes.

Paul Folkers responded that he did not know if they had reached a decision and would research and respond to the Board.

Alan Bowser stated that he attend the Council's Long Branch Town Hall meeting last week. One of the interesting things about the meeting was a lot of Spanish speaking people in attendance. One participant reported that she had heard an assault going on in her building and called 911 and by the time an operator who could speak Spanish got on the line the assault was over, the assailant had fled and the police came after the fact. Is their anything being done in Rockville to have more foreign language speaking operators working on 911 emergency equipment?

Paul Folkers responded that he would check into it because he did not know specifically if anything is being done

Alan Bowser asked if the County had enough Flu Vaccine

Paul Folkers stated that the flu vaccine situation is much different than last year. The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services has completed its flu vaccination clinics scheduled for this year and no additional clinics are scheduled at this time. Residents are urged to continue to check with their health care provider to see if flu vaccinations will be available from them in the future. A limited supply of vaccine is available for children under the age of 18.

Eric Hensal stated that there was a survey done before the Homeland Security Campaign in September and another done after could the Board possibly receive a summary of Montgomery County results of how we did from before and after.

Paul Folkers agreed to research and get back with the Board

### **Commercial and Economic Development, (CED) Committee**

Phil Olivetti reported that:

The Summary Notes are located in your packet on pages 19 and 20 of the last Commercial Economic Development Committee Meeting held on November 16 at the Silver Spring Regional Center.

**Attendance:** CED Members: Phil Olivetti- Chair, Mark Woodard, Debbie Spielberg, Marilyn Seitz, Jane Holmes, Gary Stith - SS Regional Director, Mel Tull - SS Regional Center, Z. J. Chelec and Paul Bellegarde - owners of 8711 Georgia Ave., Joe Lapan and Bob Dalrymple of Linowes and Blocker, Kim Joohan – King Architecture, C.R. George Dove - WDG Architecture, Chris Anderson DHCA/MPDU, Gill Selby - Transit Services, DPWT, David Chikvashuli- DHCA of Montgomery Co., Carolyn Webb, David Auerbach – residents

**8711 Georgia Avenue** Bob Dalrymple discussed proposed office building, on a 37,000 sq. ft empty lot using optional method, 143 ft height (12 stories), zoned CBD-2, The building will have 150,000sq ft. with first floor retail space and 325 parking spaces below grade. There will be no rear car entrance to Cameron Street Parking Garage. Wall in rear of lot will be removed to provide pedestrian access along south side of the building from the rear public use space to Georgia Avenue (DPWT has reservations about removing this wall.) Parking garage access parallels the pedestrian walkway that will be upgraded with lighting. Public amenities will include streetscaping along Cameron Avenue and Georgia Avenue, a small public use space park area will be located at the rear of the building with some art component. Seitz inquired about any requirement for moderately priced office space in an optional method office building. None is required.

Park and Planning hearing – Jan, 5, 2006

Possible construction start – 2007

Requested letter of approval from CED/SSCAB

**Action item:** Phil will write letter of approval with encouragement of increased lighting, pedestrian access to Georgia Ave and the removal of the parking lot half wall on the Parking Lot District property.

**Motion:** (Hartwich, Seitz) The Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board agreed to adopted the letter of support for the proposed office building at 8711 Georgia Avenue as amended.

**(Refer to Section 6: Informational Materials for finalized letter)**

**MPDU's** Chris Anderson of DHCA discussed the impact of condo fees on residents of MPDU's. Montgomery County has approximately 4,000 MPDUs which are mostly condos. He felt the condo fees are not a problem in most units. There are some subsidies available from some developers who have an escrow fund to help pay the fees. Cost of a unit is usually about

one third of the market price with fewer finishing amenities such as laminated counter tops versus granite and smaller square footage.

Gary was concerned about limiting the appreciation of MPDUs. Owners of MPDUs do not accumulate large equity in resale. However the owner is more able to buy into home ownership with this program and interest is tax deductible. The County Council passed law last year that removed the buyout possibility by high-end condo developers. Debbie asked if there is some future review of income of MPDU owners. There is no review for condo purchasers.

No action taken.

**VanGo:** Bill Selby of the Transit Services discussed our request to expand the hours and area of VanGo. Bill stated that county is in a budget review time. VanGo is funded by our mass- transit funds which are limited. Silver Spring now has two VanGo buses that operate from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays with a budget of \$340,000 a year with average of 860 riders per day. VanGo is a contracted service. We asked if we could have a trial increase of hours to 10 p.m., enlarged area, and charge \$.25 per rider during December. CED committee pointed out the increased population of CBD warranted the expanded hours and coverage.

**Action item:** Phil will write letter to County Executive, County Council and Art Holmes expressing our request.

**Motion:** (Woodard, Stevens) the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board agreed to adopt the letter of support urging the expanded funding for Van Go Shuttle Bus in downtown Silver Spring as amended. **(Refer to Section 6: Informational Materials for finalized letter)**

**Infrastructure -** Mark Woodard asked that although we are very supportive of the recent redevelopment in SS, we have concerns about the adequacy of our area's infrastructure. David Auerbach suggested that we invite the experts about future crowded schools and congested intersections and that we keep open frequent communication with Park and Planning and developers.

Action item – Phil and Mark will work on letter and we will continue asking for county experts to give informational meetings.

Next meeting will be a combined with the CED and Transportation and Pedestrian Safety Committee on Wed. 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 at the Silver Spring Regional Center and the subject of discussion is on Parking and Needs Analysis for downtown silver Spring.

*Summary submitted by Marilyn Seitz*

Phil Olivetti stated that at the January CED Committee they have invited someone from Park and Planning to talk about the adequate public facilities. So we want to have all the background information on the matter prior to putting a letter on the table. Phil stated that Mark Woodard had done a lot of work but the entire committee had not discussed the issue.

**For the record Mark Woodard requested that Infrastructure be placed on the January Agenda for discussion**

## **The Neighborhood Committee**

Alan Bowser reported that:

The Neighborhoods Committee met on November 21, at 7:00 p.m. at the Silver Spring Regional Center

Attending: Anita Morrison, Alan Bowser, Victor Salazar, Charlotte Coffield, Jerry Yokoyama, Wayne Goldstein, Graciela Jaschek, Darian Unger, Eric Hensel, Guy Turenne, Miguel Ascarrunz, Michael Greenberger, Mel Tull.

**Tree Maintenance** Guy Turenne from the Department of Public Works and Transportation provided a brief report on the status of tree removal and answered a few questions about specific trees. The budget for removal of dead trees is about half of the amount needed for emergency removals, but earlier this fiscal year a commitment was made to remove the existing backlog of 980 trees by the end of the year. That backlog was about equal to a full year budget. The FY-06 budget will be fully expended by January. By the end of June another backlog of approximately 800 emergency tree removals will exist. Stump removal and tree replacement is additional. The contractor budget is about \$1 million per year. It would take \$1.4 million in additional funds to meet the annual demand. This year it would take about \$4 million to eliminate the backlog and handle new requests. DEP is responsible for tree replacement. Residents can call to request a replacement tree.

**Motion:** (Jaschek, Seitz) the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board agreed to adopt and send the letter regarding Montgomery County Tree Maintenance Program to County Executive Duncan (**Refer to Section 6: Informational Materials for finalized letter**).

**Homeland Security.** Eric Hensel introduced Professor Michael Greenberger, from the University of Maryland Center for Health and Homeland Security, who shared his views of the homeland security environment at the state and county levels. He observed that while Maryland and Montgomery County are ahead of the curve nationally regarding homeland security, there is still a lot to be done - especially given that the Washington D.C. region is weak on evacuation preparedness.

In response to a question about Asian/Bird Flu he cited the need for a vaccine, and mentioned that the University of Maryland Center for Vaccine Development is doing trials now on a promising vaccine. Nevertheless, the issue will be how to get the vaccines manufactured. When asked what the committee can do he suggested: pressure for producing a vaccine; pressure to purchase a stockpile of Tamiflu treatment doses; and, pressure to prioritize the actions the County and local medical providers should take when faced with a huge, emergency need (surge capacity).

He spoke about the need for legal immunity for first responders, and observed that the General Assembly had provided for that by public health emergency law which gives the Governor power to declare martial law. He expressed the view that state and local governments could do much more to educate the community about emergency preparedness, especially for such

vulnerable communities, as the poor, senior citizens, and non-English speaking residents. He said that the University of Maryland was seeking funding for a pilot project that would assist vulnerable communities to be more prepared in the case of an emergency.

Miguel Ascarrunz, head of the Office of Emergency Management, one of the three branches of the County's Department of Homeland Security, showed the new "Draft County Hazard Mitigation Plan" which identifies major natural hazards as required by the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and develops risk reduction (mitigation) strategies that might be funded by FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding. An approved plan is necessary for the county to be eligible for pre- and post- disaster mitigation funding. He addressed changes in the 'emergency operations plan' which now recommend that residents be prepared to be "self sustaining" for 5 to 7 days (an increase from 3 to 5 days). He said the State is working on a regional evacuation plan.

The county's Department of Health and Human Services is leading the effort to plan for a pandemic flu threat. The County is working to ensure that first responders have proper protective equipment, the interoperability of communication equipment, and that the county's emergency management plans and preparations are fully checked out, certified, and accredited. In response to questions he discussed several activities of the Division of Sustainable Communities, a Citizens Corp program coordinated by the Volunteer Center, and a Citizens Emergency Response Team (CERT) program. He expressed the view that the County needed additional financial resources and manpower for homeland security and emergency preparedness.

Committee members shared their concerns about the need to reach into the community to assure that residents know what to do and how to get information. They suggested that the Department of Homeland Security tap into the many networks that exist, including PTAs and Civic Associations, to better prepare residents. The speaker agreed that more attention needs to be given to citizen involvement and outreach.

Alan Bowser presented the draft letter from the Neighborhoods Committee to the full Board and gave a brief overview of why this letter needs the support of the Board. He also stated that a discussion had been held about having a Community Leaders Forum on Emergency Preparedness issues. Victor Salazar has offered the services of the MCCPTA in the same way as he was able to get assistance for the Youth Violence and Gangs. We finally think that it is time for the County Executive to take a leadership role when it comes to Emergency Preparedness. As far as I can tell by looking at the County website and checking press releases the County Executive has not made a high profile public statement on Emergency Preparedness. He was named to the Federal Department of Homeland Security Emergency Preparedness Council and at that time he made a statement. We think it would be helpful if Douglas Duncan would raise the profile of this important issue and it could be on the web and also on the Montgomery County Cable channel. Our committee has discussed this at three different meeting and talk with people at Health and Human Services so I move the adoption of this letter on Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness for the Boards consideration.

**Motion:** (Coffield, Henzel) after a very extensive discussion on the pros and cons of the draft letter and the Community Leaders Forum regarding Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board, (SSCAB) agreed that the draft letter written by the Neighborhoods Committee be tabled and that further discussion and more research be done on Montgomery County Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness. The letter will go back to the Neighborhood Committee and the Executive Committee will hear more from the Chair of the Neighborhood Committee at the meeting prior to bringing the issue back to the full Board.

***\*Meeting Dates: The January and February meetings on the third Monday of the month would fall on holidays when County offices are closed. The committee agreed by consensus to move both meetings to the following Mondays, January 23 and February 27.***

***Next meeting: December 19, 2005. Agenda Topic, Budget Priorities & Community Policing***

#### **Transportation/Pedestrian Safety Committee**

The Transportation/Pedestrian Safety Committee did not have its regularly scheduled meeting in November due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. The next meeting will be a joint meeting combined with the Commercial Economic Development (CED) and Transportation and Pedestrian Safety Committee on Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 at the Silver Spring Regional Center.

#### **Washington Adventist Hospital Future Plan**

Jere Stock and Robert Jepson gave a brief overview of Washington Adventist Hospital's Expanded vision for services to the Community as follows:

- The Board of Trustees for Adventist Health Care has approved an expanded, strategic vision for Washington Adventist Hospital. This vision includes several elements that will improve access to care for all residents in the hospital's service area. Included in this vision is a focus on under-served populations and the creation of improved health care facilities and services for the community.
- The hospital has worked to serve the community for nearly 100 years and as they look to the next 100 years of service they want to ensure that programs, services and facilities assertively meet the growing needs to all residents in the community.

#### **Elements of the Expanded Vision**

1. Develop a health care center in the Long Branch community to improve access to care for under-served populations. A proposed location for the facility is near the intersection Flower Avenue and Pine Branch.
2. Initiation of a process for moving Washington Adventist Hospital to a new campus with the hospital's current service area that provides more space and better access to serve all residents. This transition requires regulatory approval.
3. Development of a center on health Disparities that combine clinical care, research and health careers training for historically under-served population within the hospital's service area. The hospital will ask a distinguished, diverse array of representative from

the African American, Asian, Latino and other communities to serve on a blue ribbon task force to advise on the development and operations of the Center

4. A contribution to the complete of the health center/gymnasium in Takoma Park
5. Working with CASA de Maryland and other on a multi-year commitment to expand available health care resources for the immigrant community
6. Re-development of the hospital's Board of Directors to better reflect the4 diversity of the community served by the hospital.

For more detail refer to the reading material distributed at the December 12, 2005 meeting.

If you would like more information on this project please contact Jere Stock at (301)891-5651 ([jstock@adh.com](mailto:jstock@adh.com)) or Robert Jepson at (301) 315-3042 ([rjepson@ahm.com](mailto:rjepson@ahm.com))

### **Bylaw Amendment Discussion**

Debbie Spielberg asked if the Board had a problem due to the hour with having the discussion of the Bylaws at the January meeting.

Korey Hartwich stated that he did not mind postponing the Bylaw discussion until the January meeting and asked that it be at the beginning of the agenda prior to Committee reports.

Jon Lourie stated that if there where other amendments being suggested from members of the board beside what has been put together.

Korey Hartwich stated that if Board members have significant amendments they need to come separately because what we are doing is mostly minor word edits. All other amendments would be a stand alone motion.

Alan Bowser made a motion to amend the Bylaw amendment presented in the packet by Korey Hartwich. Alan stated that it was his understanding that today was the time to outline these particular items and have the Board consider them and comeback next month for final approval.

Mark Woodard stated that he wanted to be clear and it is his understanding that if there is a significant amendment to the Bylaw package does that have to be considered at a separate meeting.

**Motion:** (Bowser, Olivetti) the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board agreed to table the Bylaw amendment discussion and that it be placed for discussion on the January 2006 Agenda.

### **Director Report**

Gary Stith reported:

- The County offered to buy seven properties located between Wayne Avenue and Bonifant Street on Fenton Street which is the proposed library site.
- The next Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board Meeting is at the AFI Silver Theatre Conference Room.
- The interviews for the SSCAB where held December 10 and thanks to all that volunteered to be on the membership committee for giving up their Saturday to help with the interviews.



- The interviews for the Long Branch Advisory Committee have been completed and they should start up either the last of January or first part of February.
- The Committees need to discuss budget Priorities so that it can be discussed at the January meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.